



Massachusetts Jobs Increase By 9,100

FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT HOLDS AT 6.9%

Boston, MA – March 22, 2012 –The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development today reported that the preliminary February 2012 estimates show that Massachusetts added 9,100 jobs over the month, for a total of 3,234,800 jobs. The total unemployment rate remained at 6.9 percent for the third consecutive month and well below the national rate of 8.3 percent. It is the lowest monthly rate since December 2008.

In February 2012, the private sector added 9,000 jobs. Seven of the ten private sectors produced gains, the largest of which occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; and Education and Health Ser-

vices. The February job gain follows a revised 13,900 job gain in January previously reported as a 6,600 gain.

Year to date, the Bay State added 23,000 jobs; the private sector added 24,200 jobs. Over the year, the Bay State added 27,100; the private sector added 31,100 jobs.

Employment Overview

Leisure and Hospitality added 4,800 (+1.5%) jobs over the month following January's revised gain of 4,400 jobs (+1.4%). The Accommodation and Food Services component accounted for most of the gain over the month. Leisure and Hospitality recorded a gain in five of the last six months. Over

the year, Leisure and Hospitality added 7,200 (+2.3%) jobs.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 2,600 (+0.5%) jobs over the month with gains in all three components. Over the year, the sector added 8,800 (+1.6%) jobs, as Retail Trade added 6,100 (+1.8%) jobs, Transportation added 2,200 (+2.6%) jobs, and Wholesale Trade added 500 (+0.4%) jobs.

Education and Health Services added 1,700 (+0.3%) jobs over the month with gains in both components. Educational Services added 1,400 (+0.9%) jobs and Health Care and Social Assistance

» continued on page 2

RCC Students and Faculty Review the Arab Spring

By **Roland Charles**
Special to The Gazette

On April 4, 2012, Dr. Heather Brown, a Professor of Middle East Studies at Northeastern University, spoke to a group of students at RCC about the events in the Middle East.

Who could imagine that the act of desperation of a young man named Mohammed Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor who set himself on fire last year, would change the destiny

of a country? About one year ago everything changed for the people of the Middle East. Several countries have undergone a historic transformation. Wael Ghonim, a leader of Egypt's revolution a year ago, operated from the strength of mental freedom, throwing off any fear and acting together with the Egyptian people. "Inside many of us, it was already over" and it was time for change. As a result, revolution had to happen.

The Arab Spring brings hopes, dreams and aspirations for the people of North Africa. They asked for freedom,

dignity, fairer distribution of economic opportunities and resources, which are basic human rights. In order to make those changes possible, many young people lost their lives in Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Yemen. Violence against civilians continues to destroy humanity. However, the people of the Middle East are determined in their pursuit of a new society to make their dreams come true.

After the speaker gave her presentation, which included many images of a

» continued on page 2

Carpooling at RCC Stepping Into the Sustainable Future

By **Hakim Cunningham**
Gazette Staff Reporter

A carpooling club at Roxbury Community College could be a reality as we step into a more sustainable future in Roxbury. Staff and students as a community need to come together to address the climate change issues we face in Roxbury. A carpooling club could be the strategy to address some of these issues on campus. The dean of student success, Mark Garth, along with Thomas Galvin (Director of Facilities), who has more than 25 years of Facilities Management experience, both said that it could help with attendance and may have several other unseen benefits for students. Mark Garth spoke about how students "would have definite transportation to school which would ease the burden of commuting for some."

Thomas Galvin said "it would help students take advantage of the collec-



tive knowledge in the car." It may be a mixture of freshman and sophomores that could share prior experiences with professors and class notes. There may be carpoolers that have been to school before that can help first time students navigate the college experience. They could help each other choose courses or troubleshoot with others. There could even be a different range of student ages.

» continued on page 4

Meet Keith McDermott, the Director of the Reggie Lewis Center

By **Victor Martinez**
Gazette Staff Reporter

The Director of the Reggie Lewis Center and RCC Intercollegiate Athletics Director, Keith McDermott, has been at the center since November of 1997 which would make this his 14th year. Keith was nice enough to make time out of his busy day and sit down to talk a little about the center and his experience there. McDermott was a former Athletic Director at Northeastern for 5 years before taking his experience to the Reggie Lewis Center. "I saw a great opportunity to make an impact on not only the center but also the community as a whole." Since McDermott has been at the center one of his most



memorable times was when the RCC women's basketball team won the championship. "It was such a great sense of pride to give to the community those young ladies who represented the community and Center in a special way."

Later Mr. McDermott spoke on why it would be a good idea to get a membership at the Reggie if you were looking for on. "Here at the Reggie we take a lot of pride in customer service. We want each member to feel a part of the family that we have all created here. We all try to be compassionate, understanding, and objective and that goes for me all the way to the security guards. The Reggie Lewis Center is a great place to be. Just ask anyone that is currently a member."

» continued on page 3

The Poster of a Thousand Words

By **Agnes Markos**,
SGA

Walking through Roxbury, it was difficult to miss the Student Government Association's (SGA) poster advertising the upcoming pajama party. However, the thick brown tape strapped across the women became more notable than the advertisement itself. The five Victoria Secret models, one black, one white, and three Latina, wore full length pajamas with only one navel escaping. Within days of going up, the image quickly erupted into a highly controversial issue.

A student adamantly tore them down, and faculty defaced what cost Student Government \$200. The hosts of the party, SGA, vehemently sought out the

vigilantes and were shocked at the answer. With only a phone call, President Gomes sternly ordered that the poster come down. Elizabeth Clark, Director of Student Life and Engagement, who supervises the SGA, received evasive phone calls from administration and faculty. The coercion by high offices led to the event being postponed.

The poster was labeled as racist, sexist, and provocative. But the question remained: why had no one come to the SGA? Why were the SGA members, who were responsible, left in the dark? The highly offended SGA leadership swiftly took to the student body since that was who they represented as elected officials. Two classes and sixty individ-

» continued on page 2

CONTENTS

MASSACHUSETTS JOBS INCREASE BY 9,100.....	1
RCC STUDENTS AND FACULTY REVIEW THE ARAB SPRING.....	1
CARPOOLING AT RCC STEPPING INTO THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE ...	1
MEET KEITH MCDERMOTT, THE DIRECTOR OF THE REGGIE LEWIS ...	1
THE POSTER OF A THOUSAND WORDS.....	1
VIOLENCE IN BOSTON.....	2

TO PICK OR PURSUE.....	2
BMT VIDEO CLUB.....	2
THE REGGIE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COM ...	2
CAN DECOR MAKE OR BREAK A COLLEGE?.....	3
ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RESTROOMS-ROOM FOR IMPRO...3	
MYERS SPEAKS WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE.....	3

A FLEETING ROMANCE ON THE "T".....	4
MY DAUGHTER'S EYES.....	4
SO, YOU THINK YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT ON A JURY?.....	4
SO COLLEGE KIDS ARE ACTING LIKE COLLEGE KIDS.....	5
THE LANGUAGE LAB.....	5
WHEN BOOKS WEIGH YOU DOWN: CAN LOCKERS HELP?.....	5

Violence in Boston

By **Simoa Barros**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Violence is a major factor that occurs daily around the world. According to the article, “The Violence within the Community,” violence in Boston is “reaching ultimate highs.” Many stabbings, shootings, domestic violence, and death are publicized in the news on a regular basis. Some parents claim it is music, while other parents say television shows and games are creating violence.

City officials attempted to find the causes of this unexpected violence. City officials, along with parents, are starting after school programs to help the youth. Also, the city hosted workshops at community centers to inform adults on how to end violence (Hunter 3). The idea of after school programs and hosting workshops is great because it will pro-

vide youth activities to keep them active. The viewpoint of the parents is excellent because some music, television shows, and games are terrible influences for the youth. Some youth are allowing what the media depicts to regulate their thinking and actions.

There are many ideas to help end violence and improve the community. A committee should be created to promote peace and create a community center. This community center should serve as an entertainment center with activities and a learning experience for youth. Individuals can attend to have fun, meet new friends, and stay out of trouble. This community center should have job opportunities opened for youth to obtain working experience. Although violence is a major issue in Boston, it can be solved to improve and stop violence.

To Pick or Pursue

By **Terah Jackson**
Gazette Staff Reporter

This message is as advertised, reoccurring in the halls and e-mail boxes of the Roxbury Community College student body and faculty. Health Majors Information Session... Don't Miss The Opportunity. Another reinforced information session exercise strictly for students pursuing paths in the professions of nursing, physical therapy, nutrition, public health, and many more. These eventful opportunities are extremely resourceful for Health Majors and Health Majors only. What about a student studying in the other various programs RCC has to offer and enforcing advertisement of opportunities for Criminal Justice majors, Business Administration majors, and Liberal Arts majors?

Faculty member Loretta Minor of the RCC Advising Office gave her opinion as to why opportunities are upheld in the community. “Health Career Majors are work force oriented and put students right to work. Liberal Arts majors are figuring out their interest to find their passion, calling.” Another member of the Advising Office suggested that the majority of students who seek information from the advisors are Health Careers majors. “They come to me with questions about the program. What if they are not accepted as transfers by another institution? Or what are the required prerequisites?” Students in the health career/nursing program have courses specifically incorporated to gear them towards their specialized career.

As for students who are in the Liberal Art program, their opportunities are loosely submitted to a broad spectrum of career choices with basic academic

courses, such as Math, Science, English, and foreign languages, with a hint at humanities electives and a few other electives of choice, which isn't necessarily geared towards suggesting career opportunities for this program of study. However, this major gives students the opportunity to explore what is their passion or calling. How can they explore professional opportunities with a solid academic focus?

Irina Galatskaya, Director of Career Development, notices the lack of internships and professional opportunities available to students studying outside of the Health Career programs. “These programs focus on an academic foundation that may not be applicable for students to succeed in the work force industry. Here is an example she proposes to support her theory. She asked, “Do you know how to write a business letter?” This question is directed to an English major. In the English program, most of the curriculum and assignments involve an immeasurable amount of writing but not necessarily knowledge of professional writing skills. There are no internships that grant students the opportunity to build hands on experience as an English Major.

What can be done so that an equal opportunity exists for all majors? Loretta Minor has developed an event that will start in Spring Semester, focusing on types of careers, institutions, and professional preparedness in relation to particular programs of study: Irina Galatskaya has developed program sheets in detail, with listed career choices that go hand in hand with particular majors. So to those students who feel left out or lost: seek an advisor and plan to take your education outside of the classroom into the real world.

BMT Video Club

By **Shakenna Appleberry**
Special to The Gazette

If you're looking for an enjoyable and rewarding experience, then the Roxbury Community College Broadcast Media Technology Video Club is waiting for you. The most active and involved club on RCC's campus, the video club was founded in 2005 by Justin Petty and Charlotte Cowins, the club's first presi-



dent. The officers and members make it possible to run food sales, bake sales and other fundraising activities to help with support annual events. The first annual catered event is a four day trip to New York City to visit a major television station like NBC, CBS, MTV and the Museum of Radio and Television.

The biggest event of the year is the “Modeling for a Cause” where the club searches for professional and non-professional models with confidence and ability to strut their stuff on the runway. In 2010, this even raised over \$700 to

support the disaster relief fund in Haiti. In 2011, “Modeling for a Cause” raised over \$1500 for RCC's scholarship fund to help admit two students into RCC. The Video Club is also responsible for the annual Talent Show Off production that immediately goes into preparation after “Modeling for a Cause.” This even gives RCC students and the surrounding area of Roxbury the chance to show off whatever special talent that they were blessed with.

At the end of the year, the club shows off their appreciation to the neighborhoods by sponsoring an Easter egg hunt. Games are played, food and drinks are served, people dance and there is much more. This is the club's way of giving back to the community. They are responsible for producing videos of the RCC graduation and the archiving the college's sports.

The Video Club is an educational organization where you can obtain hands on experience of pre-production, productions, and post production and still have fun at the same time. If you are a person with new ideas and extra time, and you're willing to make a commitment, this organization is always ready to welcome interested newcomers.

The Reggie Offers a Wide Range of Activities for the Community


By **Victor A. Martinez**,
Gazette Staff Reporter

The Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in the heart of Roxbury provides the community, as well as the rest of Massachusetts with a state of the art facility to use for a wide range of activities. Named after the late Northeastern and Boston Celtics star Reggie Lewis, this amazing building for starters has what is called the field house. This contains a 200 meter 8 lane track where many of the Boston public schools have their meets. This track will also host meets for Northeastern and a special meet for the Atlantic Coast Conference championship. Surrounding the track are four court areas for tennis, volleyball, and basketball. As for seating, the field house seats approximately 3,500 people.

Next to the field house is the weight room that houses 20 Nautilus machines that work on everything from legs to triceps and free weights with sizes 5 lbs.

to 50 lbs. The gymnasium seats 500 spectators and has one regulation and two practice basketball courts. Walking up the stairs from the gymnasium, you will then find a dance studio where on any given day you could see people breaking a sweat dancing to their favorite song. Further down the hall of the second floor you can then find instructional rooms, multi-purpose rooms, training rooms, as well as a fitness room. Each one of these rooms is being used almost all of the time.

A really good thing about the Reggie Lewis Center is that it houses the Roxbury Community College Athletic Department. When speaking with Shannon Samuels, a current RCC student and a member of the women's basketball team, she eluded that coming to RCC from Connecticut had a lot to do with the Reggie Lewis Center. “I heard of all the success at RCC and I wanted to be a part of that; having a facility like the Reggie next door to your college is wonderful. I could work out before and




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RCC Students ...

« continued from page 1

peaceful demonstration that used street art such as murals, and music to unite the people, students had a chance to ask questions. For example, someone asked why these governments acted like that and why Nato didn't help these people realize their dreams. The students left with a better understanding of the Arab Spring.

Roland Charles is a student in Professor Veronica McCormack's ESOL 030 class. Professor McCormack is a member of the Multicultural Institute at RCC which celebrates the diversity and issues that confront our global community.

The Poster ...

« continued from page 1

ual students were asked their opinions regarding the poster. Only a small handful, about 5 students, had anything negative to say. The typical response was, “Yeah, I can't wait for it” or “This is a great poster.”

The SGA doesn't understand why this poster, hardly sultry compared to the Halloween poster displaying Niki Minja's curves in what loosely resembled lingerie, attracted such attention from officials. No one else seemed to mind. The heat about the subject cooled over Spring Break, making for clearer, calmer minds. The faculty and SGA reconciled their differences. An apology was given, informally, and the posters will be paid for. Most importantly, the valuable lesson of honest communication went missing from these battlegrounds.

Massachusetts Jobs ...

« continued from page 1

added 300 (+0.1%) jobs. Over the year, Education and Health Services added 3,400 (+0.5%) jobs.

Professional, Scientific, and Business Services added 900 (+0.2%) jobs over the month, the sector's eighth monthly gain. Over the year, the sector added 11,800 (+2.5%) jobs due mostly to growth in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, which added 9,800 (+3.9%) jobs.

Information added 500 (+0.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, the sector lost 1,100 (-1.3%) jobs.

Construction added 300 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, the sector lost 1,300 (-1.2%) jobs.

Mining and Logging added 100 (+10.0%) jobs over the month. Over

the year, the sector's employment was unchanged.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged over the month as the gain in Durable Goods was equal to the loss in Non-Durable Goods. Over the year, Manufacturing added 1,800 (+0.7%) jobs.

Other Services lost 1,100 (-0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, the sector added 3,100 (+2.6%) jobs.

Financial Activities lost 800 (-0.4%) jobs over the month, with losses in both components. Over the year, the sector lost 2,600 (-1.3%) jobs: Finance and Insurance lost 2,200 (-1.3%) jobs, and Real Estate, Rental and Leasing lost 400 (-1.0%) jobs.

Government added 100 (0.0%) jobs over the month. State Government added 2,000 jobs (+1.6%) due to larger-than-expected seasonal job increases in Educational Services. Local Govern-

ment lost 1,800 (-0.7%) jobs while Federal Government lost 100 (-0.2%) jobs. Over the year, Government lost 4,000 (-0.9%) jobs.

Labor Force Overview

The February 2012 estimates show 3,220,300 Massachusetts residents were employed and 238,200 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,458,500. Since the unemployment rate peaked at 8.7 percent in October 2009, there are 59,800 more residents employed and 62,800 fewer residents unemployed. Totals for February may not sum exactly due to rounding.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics for February exhibit different trends.

Detailed labor market information is available at www.mass.gov/lmi.

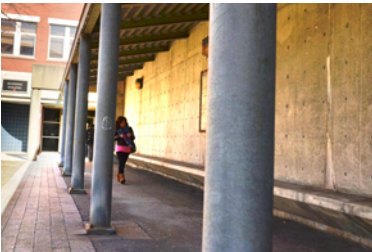
YOUR
Opinion
DOES
Matter

YES

NO

Can Decor Make or Break a College?

By **Marquise Brooks**
Gazette Staff Reporter



Strong debates brew within Roxbury Community College, where the idea was raised by a student to decorate the campus to both attract incoming students and boost college pride and honorable school representation.

In ancient times art was used to communicate to the masses. People were naturally attracted to artwork

because it symbolized so many things, and one factor that rose from this is that art stimulates the brain. It allows a gate of creativity to open and for your world to experience new things and take on adventures. Artists’ work is actually very important to children, and it just doesn’t stop there; it’s for adults as well. Children’s Museum Artist Exhibit Tour Guide Amber Schien said, “It’s a fact. Art is good for young minds. It stimulates creativity, sets imagination free and encourages an appreciation of culture that will last a lifetime.”

Colleges compete and need to persuade young students to pick their college over the rest.

What is one way to attract people? When students walk through the halls and they see either a poster board or informational flyer, they will be more inclined to read.

There is a small percentage of people whose environment will have a true effect on their mood. If the educational facility presents itself in a depressed and gloomy way, then students may absorb that negative energy and their ability to be successful falls onto their own will.

RCC holds a 9% graduation rate. This doesn’t solely rest on the fact that there is no decor. Yet it does play a huge factor. Many attend RCC as a transitional phase to get to a University. If RCC would build a positive reputation that would allow students to come and feel more comfortable, there would be more interaction.

When asked her opinion of the college’s appearance, Judy Kahalas, Coordinator of the Writing Center, said that “given the dire budget cuts, I’m afraid that attractiveness has been an issue for RCC. While I would love to see a more visually pleasing and inviting campus, if I had to choose between academics and beauty, I think I would vote for strong academic programs.”

Jason Marshall is an employee at College Board. When asked what was his opinion of the college’s character, he said that he felt that “a school’s character is what builds its name. Typically, it’s the main attraction to having students attend. If they lack in that departments . . . they can find themselves short of students or, even worse, college worth and pride.”

Roxbury Community College Restrooms-Room for Improvement?

By **Tashanea Whitlow**
Gazette Staff Reporter

Do you dread that feeling of needing to go to the bathroom, but you hold it because you know the conditions of the restroom are going to be so unflattering you’d rather wait until you get home (which won’t be for another hour)? Well, if you answered yes, then you’ve been in our school bathrooms at Roxbury Community College.

The conditions of the restrooms on campus are less than flattering and fail miserably to our standards as a community. The appearance of the restrooms gives off the image that we are a community that doesn’t take pride in ourselves, let alone the quality or upkeep of our campus. The campus has 15 restrooms, to which all, in my opinion, fall below the average for a school whose slogan is “Gateway to the Dream.” It should be “Gateway to the Clean.”

Let me take you on a visual tour of our “Ladies” Restroom. The smell is enough to make you rethink releasing your bladder that is about to burst because you’ve been holding it for so long. If you can get over the smell, maybe the visual will make you retract your steps out the door. As paper towels, toilet paper litters the floor, and unflushed toilets cloud your vision and fill your nose, a “lady” would rethink using a restroom in that state.

After speaking with multiple students about the conditions, they all agreed that RCC has some improvements to make when it comes to the cleanliness of the restrooms compared to other campuses. Compared to male restrooms, the women’s restroom is by far the most in need of drastic improvements. But students would be surprised to learn that the restrooms are being cleaned on a daily basis and sometimes cleaned 4 times a day, as indicated by Facilities Manager Kenneth Hall, who has been employed at RCC for over 15 years. He states, “We know the problems, and we are trying to get it better. We just need students’ help. Mainly with the women’s restrooms. We just need better student participation.”

RCC only has about 10 janitors, called maintainers, as expressed to me by Mr. Hall. The maintainers are divided up. The college uses two maintainers in the other buildings: Media Arts, Administration, and Student Center. They take care of the bathrooms and stairwells.

For evening maintainers they have 5 at night. These maintainers take care of the classrooms, offices, hallways, and do some bathroom cleaning as well. Hall states, “The restrooms are cleaned at least 3 times a day. Early in the morning, then around 10:30am and about 1:00pm.

OUR AIM IS TO KEEP
THIS BATHROOM
CLEAN

GENTLEMEN

Your aim will help.
Stand closer;
It's shorter than you think.

LADIES

Please remain seated
for the entire
performance

If they (the maintainers) can get in sooner, they do. The problem being we wish we could get them cleaned more frequently.” Hall also gets into what sometimes prohibits the maintainers from cleaning the restrooms more often, which he attributes to the lack of freight elevators, saying, “The problem with the school is that we have no freight elevators because of the way the school was built. Our guys have to go up and down the elevators on the same one’s the students use. They sometimes have to wait 10-20 minutes for an elevator.”

If maintainers are cleaning the restrooms up to four times a day, what seems to be the problem with cleanliness? Hall attributes the issue to female students not having enough respect to clean behind themselves, stating, “I know they’re getting cleaned regularly, but there are times they are dirtied as quick as we clean them. A lot

of females here don’t have respect for the school from what I see because the things I’ve seen in those bathrooms . . .”

When surveying students (both male & female), the men had very little to say regarding the cleanliness of the men’s restroom. Twenty-two year old Broadcast Media Technology major Albert Brown says, “ . . . they could use some form of disinfectant spray, fragrance, or open a window to air it out. The smell is not great.” I asked Hall if that problem could be corrected since it’s such a minor complaint, and he replied, “In the past we had those wall air fresheners but they (students) started beating and tearing them off of the wall.” He also stated, “In the beginning of the semester, three bathrooms had some remodeling by adding brand new partitions, and the same day they finished being replaced students wrote all over them including the mirrors. All on the same day!”

As adults attending college in search of a better life, we need to take more responsibility for ourselves and fellow students when it comes to the maintenance and appearance of our school. We pay to be here and deserve better but better has to start with us not just casting blame on janitors. Hall replies, “For our students who are supposed to be grown men and women, I think they should have more pride in the bathrooms by keeping them cleaner. Treat the restrooms, so I know what you’re talking about.” He also says, “I’ve been getting on my guys about cleaning them more often, but we have a lot of people here who just don’t care.”

Meet Keith McDermott ...

« continued from page 1

For a full-time college student the price is \$50. A general membership will cost you \$80 for 3 months, \$150 for 6 months, \$250 for 12 months, and senior citizens (65 and older) \$30 for 3 months \$60 for 6 months, and \$120 for 12 months. The hours of operation are as follows: Monday through Friday from 7 am-10 pm and Saturdays 9 am-6 pm. The center is closed on Sundays.

INTERVIEW

Myers Speaks with the Office of Student Life

By **Tia Myers**
Gazette Staff Reporter

During my time here at Roxbury Community College, I've often wondered why RCC doesn't have a sorority or offer some type of step dance. After studying, you would think that there would be some type of extracurricular activity to make things interesting. Is it because RCC is a just two year school? Or is it something that no one is interested in? Well, I decided that I wanted to investigate and inquire to see what I come up with. This would be an interesting challenge to find out the answers I seek. Don't get me wrong, RCC does have other activities. I'm just looking for a little bit more. I decided to interview Ms. Elizabeth Clark who is the Director of Student Life and Engagement for Roxbury Community College.



Elizabeth Clark, Director of Student Life and Student Engagement

TM: Ms. Clark, how come Roxbury Community College doesn't have a step team?

EC: Why don't they have a step team? More importantly, no student has come forward with an interest in having a step team. Our clubs and organizations are driven by the students, not driven by the office. They are driven by the interest of the students. If they are interested in starting a step team, then they must come to my office and pick up an application and return it. They need at least fifteen students to participate to be an official club.

TM: Would they need a coach to teach them or would they know what to do?

EC: It depends on the level of the group. If they don't know anything

about it then we would have to hire someone who's interested in teaching them the steps.

TM: I didn't know it was so easy to come to you to have one. I thought we would have to go to the President to have a step team, which leads me to my next question: Why can't we have one?

EC: All clubs and organizations come through this area; the director of Student Life and Student Engagement office. Are you sure you're talking about a step team as opposed to a sorority or fraternity? There is a difference between the two. Stepping is an added component. A sorority and a fraternity's mission is to give service, not to step. I belonged to an African American Sorority that is the oldest sorority in history. It was called Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The sorority is put in place to give service to all mankind. Stepping is an added bonus to the organization and to our Chapter but it was not what sorority was founded on.

TM: Did anyone in the past try to get a step team going?

EC: Yes, there was someone who tried to start a step team, but it did not last.

TM: Why didn't it last?

EC: It was started and it just crumbled. You have to have dedicated members who come to practice and be truly interested. You just can't wake up in the morning and say I'm going to have a step team and not have the foundation of when and how often you are going to practice laid out.

TM: Where does the funding come from?

EC: When you fill out your application and bring it back then you list your activities and it's brought to the Student Government Association, they are the ones who dole out the money for the clubs. This is all in your student handbook and student life activities brochure. You can always contact the SGA at SGA@rcc.mass.edu.

GATEWAY GAZETTE

A publication of staff and students at
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Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

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Roxbury
Community
College
Gateway to the Dream

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facebook

A Fleeting Romance on the “T”

By **Oronde Popplewell**
Composition I Honors, Spring 2012

In an attempt to model the writing style and content of Toni Morrison’s Jazz, students wrote a narrative essay about a romantic relationship that took place in their community and expands upon the lyrics of a song (i.e. rap, rhythm and blues, alternative). Below is an example of an essay that responds to the lyrics of Eryka Badu’s “Next Lifetime.”

Note: “Now what am I supposed to do when I want you in my world? But how can I want you for myself, when I’m already someone’s [guy]? I guess I’ll see you next lifetime.”

---Next Lifetime performed by Erykah Badu

“Good morning,” I moan to Meredith as I stretch and swing my feet softly to the floor. She sighs back “m’ning,” and rolls sleepily in my direction. I give her a light peck on the forehead, click the alarm next to the bed and head for the kitchen. I start the coffee and set out mugs on the counter. Then I am off to the shower. By the time I step into the steaming water, the grumble of the percolator and the earthy sweet notes of fresh coffee have already alerted my senses.

In ten minutes flat I am shaved clean, brushed fresh and pressed crisp. Two minutes later I finish making the coffee. Still sleepy, Meredith walks into the kitchen just in time for hers (milk no sugar). We chat for a few minutes while she makes breakfast and she reminds me that she’ll be home late tonight. The warm buttered toast has me drooling

before I finish packing my bag for work and, when I sit down at the counter, a plate of steaming scrambled eggs greets me along with my coffee. For what feels like seconds, we share breakfast in comfortable silence, occasionally broken by playful criticisms or a wistful sigh.

Then it was time for my mad dash for the train. I tug on my heavy boots and whip on a long scarf, a wool coat, a fur lined hat, and gloves. One last kiss for warmth, and I’m out the door, taking my first long laborious strides through the ankle deep snow.

It’s a five minute downhill trudge from home to the “T” and a twenty minute ride to Copley. Already, three minutes after leaving the warmth of home, Meredith and my bed are fading as the January chill creeps in through my layers. I glance at my wrist, my breath steaming up the face of my watch, and I break into a jog. Crunching through the snow, I reach the “T” stop as the Green line train pulls up. Ding. I step onto the train and pay my fare. It is hot. The train windows are fogged with the breath of its passengers, and a myriad of scents, soaps, perfumes, aftershave, and coffee assault my nose as I squeeze my way to the rear compartment.

The last time I saw her was three days ago. She was on the other side of the train; I must have passed her while I was finding my spot. I had just put in my buds, settled into my commute, and when I looked up, there she was: a flash of color, bright green coat with gold buttons, and her braids like cords, wrapped tightly in a neat bun. She was

reading a tablet; the electronic story leaving a secret amusement on her face. I was so struck by her that it took me a few moments to realize that she was smiling shyly at me. Immediately, I wondered what her name was and which stop was hers. I silently wished the Green line train would head nonstop to London. Across the packed train, for twenty minutes, we shared a few silent observations, flirtations. Ding. Hynes Convention Center. Gold Buttons pushed her way off the train.

Ding. Today’s train is express to Copley. Hundreds of ways to broach conversation flood my mind as I anxiously scan the train. Hopelessly, I look through the mural of blank uninvolved faces as my head swivels from side to side. Just as the doors begin to close I catch a glimpse of green as she steps off the train. I chuckle to myself as I resist the urge to charge off of the train after her. What would Meredith say if she saw me acting like a crazed teen? Then, right then, I realize she wouldn’t love this story at all and that acting on impulse may jeopardize our relationship. The thought jars me out of my daydream as sharply as a sudden stop at a red light. Ding. The train pulls into Copley Square.

I step onto to the street and take a cleansing breath. I let the crisp, cold air clear my head of the muggy, perfumed smell of the train and I remember her, instantly, the idea of her crumpled PJs and bed hair warms my thoughts. Suddenly, my phone is in my hand and I’m dialing Meredith to tell her one last thing I forgot before I left the house.

Carpooling at RCC ...

« continued from page 1

Thomas Galvin said that “he had worked in healthcare facilities management for 25 years and it is a reality at some hospitals and other colleges.” He said, “It would be voluntary for students to be involved and that they would have to be in the route and of close proximity to their carpool students.”


It would definitely promote a greener and more sustainable environment by reducing the VHT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) gas usage and environmental impact to Boston. It would impact per-

sonal vehicle cost and repairs by having less wear and tear on cars and more shared responsibility among all. Tom said that “he could create reserved preferred parking for carpool students.”

It would have to be set up in a way that students would arrive 15 minutes early prior to their class starting. That would reward those students who are participating in carpooling. RCC student Tashanea Whitlow, a Broadcast Media Major, said that “it would encourage students to stay and graduate from the college and it would greatly affect attendance.”

Mr. Galvin said, “The carbon footprint of a lot of our students would be

reduced and that it has an intrinsic value to the greater whole of RCC.” With fewer cars being drivers to campus and less stress on the students, it may affect their wellbeing and their performance. It would take a collaborated effort between the VP of Academic Affairs and Director of Facilities along with the VP of Administration and Finance to make this a reality at our school. With this new club we can step into a sustainable future at RCC and do our part to affect the climate change issue that we all face here and globally. So get on board and push for a more environmentally friendly campus at RCC!



Woman to Woman

My Daughter's Eyes

By **Jessenia Paulino**
Special to The Gazette

She's only seven going on eleven, thinking she knows more than what she sees.
She misses him and worships him, yet she doesn't see
All my hard work.
I take her out; make sure she has a good time;
Show her I love her.
But she looks at me in the face and tells me she wants him.
With her sad face and running tears, she tells me
She misses him.
He doesn't call or send a message, but for her birthday he'll send a present.
He comes to see her once a year, but all she wishes
Is he was here.
I take her to the park and watch her play; I really wish things weren't this way.
I watch her grow and help her learn, meanwhile she wishes I was him.
I look in her eyes and all I see is the love
She wants from him.
I wish I could give her that love for which she yearns
But all I can promise is her mother's love, the love I will never tire
Of giving her.

So, you think you don't have to sit on a Jury?

Information provided by Michael Ryan, Office of the Jury Commissioner, Commonwealth of MA

If summoned, college students are eligible for jury duty. Under the One-Day/One-Trial Jury System there are no exemptions from juror service. Judges, doctors, lawyers, teachers, single parents, and students must report for jury duty. The Office of Jury Commissioner (OJC) summons all jurors throughout Massachusetts. The OJC strives to provide demographic cross-sections at all 67 jury court locations.

Jurors serve for one day, or, if selected, for the length of one trial. About 90 percent of those who report fulfill their obligation in one day. All jurors may request a postponement of juror service up to one year from their original reporting date. No reason for postponement is needed.

Failure to report for jury duty could result in a fine up to \$2,000 and possible arrest. This is all last resort. To avoid any penalty, jurors need only to perform their service or to provide proof of disqualification.

There are 10 major disqualifications to juror service. All require written proof of disqualification:

1. Not a citizen. Green card number must be provided.
2. People over the age 70 have the option whether or not to serve. If they don't want to serve, they must provide their date of birth.
3. Under age 18. Date of birth must be provided.
4. Cannot speak or understand English. Jurors must state their primary language.
5. Moved out of the county. The new address must be provided.
6. Living outside of the county for more than one year. This usually applies to those serving in the armed forces.
7. Felon. The details must be furnished.
8. Served within the previous three years. Give the date of previous service.
9. Poor health. A doctor's note is required.
10. Primary caregiver. A doctor's note must specify the juror as the caregiver of the patient.

Those jurors who need assistance should call the Jury Call Center at 1-800-843-5879 (1-800-THE-JURY) weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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So College Kids are Acting Like College Kids

Should the Sins of the Father be Visited on the Sons?

By **Judy Kahalas**

Coordinator of the Writing Center

Our Student Government Association (SGA) planned an activity that was scheduled for March 9: a pajama party held in the Student Center's former cafeteria. But it was cancelled following a campus-wide uproar over "isms": racism, sexism, youthism. So the students weren't politically correct in their questionable choice of the sexually provocative photo they used to advertise the event. So they missed the boat by having a single woman of color represented. And they even lacked the foresight to see that a few people (as it happens, very few) could be offended that only women were shown in the poster.

There is a new reality that we must face: if this is a college campus and not a Grade 13 high school, then students need to be responsible for their decisions. Those who were upset by the poster need not attend the event. Those who were offended could have utilized

multiple channels to begin a dialog: the campus newspaper, email, petitions, and posters of their own. There are systems and protocols for dissent; there is also the First Amendment that protects freedom of speech and expression.

If we examine the success of the ad to generate attention, then it was way off the charts. If we look at the face of previous posters for campus events, then this was no more provocative than any of the others, and in fact even less so. The reality of Generation Y is that these freshmen and sophomores have grown up with videos that are sexually explicit. My generation fought for women's rights and racial equality. They had the good fortune to be in America at a time when this was implicitly understood. Perhaps their conscience does not remember the offenses of ours.

A "pajama party" does not appeal to all members of our student body. It is appalling to some of us that this would even be considered. Not every student on campus would have been able or

would want to attend. However, just Google campus pajama parties and you come up with multiple opportunities to peek inside one. SGA arranged for chaperones (police officers and faculty members). It would have been a dance, albeit with unusual attire, with food, a DJ, camaraderie and collegial spirit. How different is this from other college dances? We squelched that – an opportunity lost.

What is especially troublesome is that our students are being held to a higher moral standard than those on other college campuses. It is not their fault that we, as a campus, have suffered from negative publicity about which they have no memory or part. Should they suffer for our inability to generate good publicity for the college? Our institutional insecurities should bear no weight when it comes to college students wanting to be college students. It is all good when school spirit unites a campus.

The Language Lab



By **Deishawn Thompson**

Gazette Staff Reporter

The Language Lab is a place at Roxbury Community College that few students know about. Located on the second floor room right next door to the Writing Center, it offers students a chance to study the language that a student chooses to study for that semester. The Language Lab offers computer programs that help make learning a language fun and easy! With interactive programs, students can play games and test themselves which makes learning a language such as Arabic a breeze.

The Language Lab is open both in the

spring and fall semesters and hours vary during the summertime. If a student at RCC uses this lab to further their study of a language, it can help students learn faster and be better prepared for tests.

The Language Lab is open during the school semester from 8:30am-7:30pm. It is run by Professor Sue Kalt, but Craig Panzer is the go-to guy for all a student's Language Lab needs like the best software to use for the language that student is studying.

Every student needs to stop by the Language Lab at least once during their study at RCC; it may just be the place that can help a student get that "A" in their language class.

Join the Criminal Justice Club & Student Government Association
in a

Fun Filled Trip to Canobie Lake Park!

MAY 25, 2012
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8AM - DEPARTING RCC PARKING LOT
3PM - LEAVING PARK

\$47.00
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(FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE)

PLEASE CONTACT:
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Jessica LeBaron - jllebaron@roxbury.edu - 857.492.7638
Charmayne Martin - cymartin@roxbury.edu - 857.312.7487

When Books Weigh You Down: Can Lockers Help?

By **Daniel Villanueva**

Editorial Director

If it's not the exorbitant process of getting textbooks that drives RCC students crazy, then it could be the cost. If it's not the work load that tires out our students, then it's the weight. Time and time again, students experience not only mental fatigue, but also physical. Take note of the students that tote textbooks from class to class. How can OUR institution help alleviate our pains? (No pun intended!)

Imagine a full-time student who is unemployed but isn't on financial aid and doesn't have the luxury to drive to school. In fact, he's either forced to walk the three miles to and from school or he can scavenge for bus fare change in his couch. Yes, that is yours truly, but I do realize that my plight is light compared to others. Personally, I don't mind the walk. That is, if I'm not carrying my textbooks. I'm sure I'm not alone when I say that keeping my textbooks on campus is a lot easier than bringing them home. The possibility of placing lockers on campus could help lighten the load.

One may suggest that a lack of lockers actually restricts our students. How, you ask? Consider this. Depending on the day, students may only bring enough materials for that class. If they have a high pain tolerance, they may bring more materials. But you also have to consider the other variables: the distance they live away from school, their time spent on

campus, their time commuting to and from school, etc. If lockers were placed on campus, students could work on any subject at their leisure, considering their books would be on hand.

The library carries a reserve text for the multitude of courses that RCC provides (note that "courses" is plural, and "text" is singular). There is the possibility that a student(s) need(s) to use a library textbook, but it's unavailable because it has already been checked out.

What about the possibility that students may use their lockers to store materials other than school work? If you were in the Boston Public School System, you'd know the routine. They'd have random dog sniffing teams that prowled the hallways in search of the slightest scent of narcotics or weaponry. Why not apply the same principal?

What would be an ideal location for these lockers? Considering that most classes are conducted in Building 3, perhaps next to the elevators? Why not? Upon entering/ exiting the building, students would have direct access to their lockers, which in turn, minimizes the time spent in transition. But there's the possibility that it could create traffic. So why not have them on every floor? If students knew their locker was on the 3rd floor, and they had class on the 4th, would they spend time on the 1st floor? There is also the possibility in Building 4, The Student Center, where the space is more abundant. I wouldn't mind that walk either, especially because it's not 3 miles!

